FBI Mail Monitoring Detailed

NEWARK, N.J. — A confidential FBI memo authorized agents to monitor mail of the Socialist Workers Party to gather intelligence on the anti-war movement.

The memo, dated Jan. 11, 1973, but not made public until yesterday, was issued under the name of then-FBI Director L. Patrick Gray and authorized surveillance of the SWP's national headquarters in New York to provide "valuable information to this bureau in connection with our internal security responsibilities."

The memo was made public in U.S. District Court during a pre-trial hearing in connection with a lawsuit filed against the FBI five years ago by a student, Lori Paton of Mendham, N.J.

Paton, now a senior at the University of Virginia, charged the FBI opened a file on her after she wrote to the SWP in 1973 for a high school social studies project.